United Nations A/56/560/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2001

Original: English

**Fifty-sixth session**
Agenda item 97 (b)

# Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: human resources development

## Report of the Second Committee*

*Rapporteur*: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 97 (see A/56/560, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 27th and 40th meetings, on 19 November and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.27 and 40).

## II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.24 and A/C.2/56/L.74

2. At the 27th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/56/L.24), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Reaffirming* its resolutions 45/191 of 21 December 1990, 46/143 of 17 December 1991, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 50/105 of 20 December 1995, 52/196 of 18 December 1997 and 54/211 of 22 December 1999, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,
>
> "*Reaffirming also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government in September 2000,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/56/560 and Add.1-5.

01-69603 (E) 151201

"*Recalling* Economic and Social Council decision 2001/299 of 19 July 2001, by which it adopted 'The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development' as the theme for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2002,

"*Recognizing* that human beings are at the centre of concern in sustainable development,

"*Stressing* that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and that there is a need for continued support from the international community to complement the efforts of developing countries,

"*Stressing also* that there is a need for an enabling international environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

"*Stressing further* that health and education are at the core of human resources development, and the need to ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, as expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"*Emphasizing* that human resources development should be an essential component of international development cooperation and that there is a need to promote continuous training and capacity-building within projects and programmes as a means of advancing such development,

"*Recognizing* that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women and the girl child,

"*Recognizing also* the vital role of South-South cooperation in supporting national efforts at human resources development,

"*Expressing concern* at the increasing gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge, information and communication technologies, and the increasing disparity of income in and among nations and its adverse impact on the development of human resources, in particular in the developing countries,

"*Stressing* that developing countries should be assisted so that they can be well equipped with the knowledge of information technology that would enable them to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and to avoid the risk of marginalization in the process of globalization,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and of other major diseases on human resources development, particularly in developing countries,

"*Emphasizing* the continued need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most

vulnerable groups, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Recognizes* the importance of developing human resources as a means, inter alia, of promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty as well as of participating more effectively in the world economic system and of benefiting from globalization;

"3. *Urges* increased investments in all aspects of human development, such as health, nutrition, education, training and further capacity-building, to achieve social and economic development and the well-being of all;

"4. *Encourages* all countries to accord priority to human resources development in the context of the adoption of economic and social policies;

"5. *Urges* the adoption of comprehensive approaches to human resources development which combine, among other factors, economic growth, poverty eradication, provision of basic social services, sustainable livelihoods, empowerment of women, involvement of young people, the needs of vulnerable groups of society, political freedom, popular participation and respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

"6. *Encourages* all countries to ensure local and community-level engagement in policy issues of human resources development;

"7. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

"8. *Recognizes* the need to direct concerted efforts at enhancing the technical skills and know-how of people living in rural and agricultural areas, with a view to improving their means of livelihood and material well-being, and in this regard encourages the allocation of more resources for this purpose so as to facilitate access to appropriate technology and know-how from within and from other countries, in particular the developed countries, as well as through South-South cooperation;

"9. *Encourages* the adoption of policies, approaches and measures that serve to narrow the increasing gap between developed and developing countries in information and communication technologies in particular and in technology in general, including by:

"(a) Encouraging the private sector, in collaboration with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to donate voluntarily to designated centres in developing countries literary materials, information and communication technology equipment and training in order to facilitate improved access, and to make funds available for those purposes;

"(b) Taking advantage of the rapid turnaround in both the educational institutions and corporations in developed countries of literary material and information and communication technology equipment, through coordinated efforts involving the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and recipients or interested developing countries;

"(c) Promoting transparent, efficient regulatory regimes and other policies that encourage investment;

"(d) Supporting targeted investments in infrastructure that would establish the physical foundation for the operation of Internet services and pave the way for commercial and development applications;

"(e) Developing training in information technologies for users such as non-governmental organizations, universities and business service organizations, as well as key governmental agencies;

"10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to harmonize further its collective human resources development efforts, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

"11. *Encourages* the United Nations system to take a comprehensive view of human resources development in its initiatives, relating it to the acquisition of broader knowledge with a view to enabling human resources to respond to the new demands associated with the technology revolution and take advantage of emerging opportunities in a globalized world;

"12. *Encourages also* the United Nations system to promote strategies for human resources development that facilitate access by developing countries to new information and communication technologies so as to bridge the digital divide;

"13. *Encourages further* the United Nations system to focus in its cooperation activities on building human and institutional capacity, with specific attention given to women, girls and vulnerable groups;

"14. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to engage, where appropriate, with the private sector, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, so as to further contribute to the building of human resources development capacity in developing countries;

"15. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, to continue to give priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, projects and operations;

"16. *Calls upon* developed countries and the United Nations system to increase support to programmes and activities in developing countries for advancing human resources development and capacity-building, in particular those geared towards harnessing information and communication technologies;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation', the sub-item entitled 'Human resources development'."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Garfield Barnwell (Guyana), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/56/L.74), which he submitted as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.24.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.74 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.74, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.24 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Human resources development

*The General Assembly*,

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 45/191 of 21 December 1990, 46/143 of 17 December 1991, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 50/105 of 20 December 1995, 52/196 of 18 December 1997 and 54/211 of 22 December 1999, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,[1]

*Reaffirming also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government in September 2002,[2]

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council decision 2001/299 of 19 July 2001, by which the Council adopted "The contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development" as the theme for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2002,

*Recognizing* that human beings are at the centre of concern in sustainable development,

*Stressing* that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and that there is a need for continuing support from the international community to complement the efforts of developing countries,

*Stressing also* that there is a need for an enabling national and international environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

*Stressing further* that health and education are at the core of human resources development, and the need to ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, as expressed at the World Education Forum, held at Dakar in April 2000, and in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

*Emphasizing* that human resources development should be an essential component of international development cooperation and that there is a need to promote continuous training and capacity-building within projects and programmes as a means of advancing such development,

*Recognizing* that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women and girls,

*Recognizing also* the vital role of South-South cooperation in supporting national efforts at human resources development,

*Expressing concern* at the increasing development gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge, information and communication technologies, and the increasing disparity of income in and among nations and its adverse impact on the development of human resources, in particular in the developing countries,

*Stressing* that developing countries should be assisted in their efforts to develop capacity in and to be well equipped with the knowledge of information technology that would enable them to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and to avoid the risk of marginalization in the process of globalization,

*Expressing deep concern* at the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and of other major diseases on human resources development, in particular in developing countries,

*Emphasizing* the continuing need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable groups, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of developing human resources as a means, inter alia, of promoting economic growth and eradicating poverty as well as of participating more effectively in the world economic system and of benefiting from globalization;

3. *Urges* increased investments by all countries, the United Nations system, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in all aspects of human development, such as health, nutrition, education, training and further capacity-building, with a view to achieving sustainable development and the well-being of all;

4. *Encourages* all countries to accord priority to human resources development in the context of the adoption of national economic and social policies, including their financing, taking into account their financial constraints;

5. *Urges* the adoption of comprehensive approaches to human resources development which combine, among other factors, economic growth, poverty eradication, provision of basic social services, sustainable livelihoods,

[3] A/56/162.

empowerment of women, involvement of young people, the needs of vulnerable groups of society, the needs of local indigenous communities, political freedom, popular participation and respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

6. *Encourages* all countries to ensure local and community-level engagement in policy issues of human resources development;

7. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national and local policies to promote human resources development;

8. *Recognizes* the need to direct concerted efforts at enhancing the technical skills and know-how of people living in rural and agricultural areas, with a view to improving their means of livelihood and material well-being, and in this regard encourages the allocation of more resources for that purpose so as to facilitate access to appropriate technology and know-how from within and from other countries, in particular the developed countries, as well as through South-South cooperation;

9. *Encourages* the adoption of policies, approaches and measures that serve to narrow the increasing gap between developed and developing countries in information and communication technologies in particular and in technology in general by, inter alia:

(a) Encouraging the private sector, in collaboration with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to donate voluntarily to designated centres in developing countries literary materials, information and communication technology equipment and training which, together with the enabling policies and institutions both at the national and international levels, will facilitate improved access;

(b) Taking advantage of the rapid turnaround in both the educational institutions and corporations in developed countries of literary material and information and communication technology equipment, through coordinated efforts involving the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and recipients in interested developing countries;

(c) Promoting transparent, efficient regulatory regimes and other policies that encourage investment;

(d) Supporting targeted investments in infrastructure that would establish the physical foundation for the operation of Internet services and pave the way for commercial and development applications;

(e) Developing training in information technologies for users such as non-governmental organizations, universities and business service organizations, as well as key governmental agencies;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to harmonize further its collective human resources development efforts, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations system to take a comprehensive view of human resources development in its initiatives, relating it to the acquisition of broader knowledge with a view to enabling human resources to respond to the new

demands associated with the technology revolution and take advantage of emerging opportunities in a globalized world;

12. *Encourages also* the United Nations system to promote strategies for human resources development that facilitate access by developing countries to new information and communication technologies so as to bridge the digital divide;

13. *Encourages further* the United Nations system to focus in its cooperation activities on building human and institutional capacity, with specific attention given to women, girls and vulnerable groups;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to engage, where appropriate, with the private sector, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, so as to further contribute to the building of human resources development capacity in developing countries;

15. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, to continue to give priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, projects and operations;

16. *Calls upon* developed countries and the United Nations system to increase support to programmes and activities in developing countries for advancing human resources development and capacity-building, in particular those geared towards harnessing information and communication technologies;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".